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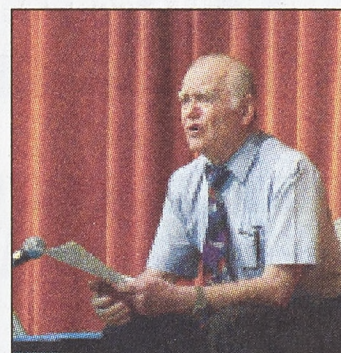
VALLEY STAR

the independent student newspaper



Is the \$10 per unit tuition fee increase really that bad? One student shares her opinion.

SEE OPINION PAGE 3



Holocaust survivor David Lux visits campus and recounts his inspiring tale of survival.

SEE VALLEY LIFE PAGE 4



Valley's track and field teams are heading to the state finals, May 20, at American River College.

SEE SPORTS PAGE 5

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May 18, 2011

Volume 74 Issue 9

LEARNING THE ABCs OF EMT

Popular occupational program readies students for a career in life saving.

STEPHANIE COLMAN
NEWS EDITOR

Lights flash and sirens blare as the ambulance driver skillfully maneuvers the rig through Altadena's afternoon traffic. Valley College EMT student David Maldonado, 21, sits alert and ready in the back, his eyes denoting eager anticipation. After several quiet hours at the station, he's ready for some action.

And just like that, it's over. The call is canceled. The patient refused emergency medical care.

"I think that's the most frustrating thing," Maldonado said. "You get your hopes up, and then nothing. But it helps pass the time, and you get a little adrenaline rush out of it."

Good for the patient. Not so good for an EMT student looking to fulfill patient contact requirements during his professional ride-along.

Maldonado is one of about 38 remaining students enrolled in Valley's Emergency Medical Technician program. The eight-unit class packs 180 hours of instruction into four short months, challenging students to master a laundry list of life-saving skills along with volumes of critical medical information. Each semester, nearly 200 students vie for less than half as many spots. It's a hugely popular class with good reason. Successful graduates who go on to pass the national certification exam are often hired by private ambulance companies at a starting salary of more than \$48,000 plus benefits.

Despite the popularity, the attrition rate is high. According to Department Chairman Alan Cowen, only about half of those enrolled each semester successfully complete the program. Some students discover it's not for them, while others can't keep up academically and are forced to drop the class.

"We're dealing with life-saving, we can't make mistakes; when we do, somebody dies," Cowen said. "We are strict. If you don't cut the mustard and make it through the midterm, you're done. It's too important."

To pass the class, students must pass a written midterm and final exam along with 12 hands-on skills tests ranging from trauma assessments to the use of automatic external defibrillators. They



RESCUE 911 - Valley student Matthew Brennan (center) directs others while practicing the spine immobilization technique, one of 12 skills they will master.

must also work with at least five patients in the field on a ride-along, where they're allowed to provide basic care under the guidance of certified EMTs.

Matthew Brennan is in class taking his spinal immobilization skills test. He must take a leadership role and direct fellow students to perform tasks at his instruction. His patient scenario has classmate Juliet Rosenberg playing the role of someone who has fallen from a building. Brennan's job is to successfully assess the situation, ask assistants to immobilize the patient as he checks motor, sensory and circulatory function, properly direct the movement of the patient onto a backboard so as not to compromise the spine, and make sure she is properly secured to the device for safe transport.

He passes the assessment.

"The hardest part is that it's a lot of material to learn," Brennan said. "The exams are different from any I've ever taken. You can't just read the question and choose the answer. You have to really know the information and be able to think critically in order to make the right decision. You also have to have a strong stomach. You can't be afraid to get your hands dirty."

Nor, as Maldonado is learning on his ride-along, can you be averse to occasional long stretches of downtime while waiting for a call.

"Sometimes it's slow," said Schaefer Ambulance EMT Tadeh Danielian. He and partner Kevin Derek have been tasked with helping supervise and mentor Maldonado. After giving him the rundown on how the three will work together in the field, and showing him where to find supplies on the rig, they wait. And wait. Some days the calls are few and far between.

Maldonado eventually catches a couple of non-life-threatening calls. He stands at-the-ready, respectfully observing the professionals in action and trying to anticipate their needs. The patient is an elderly man being transported to the hospital for observation. Once on the rig, Maldonado checks his pulse and blood pressure as EMT Walter Manriquez attempts a detailed medical history.

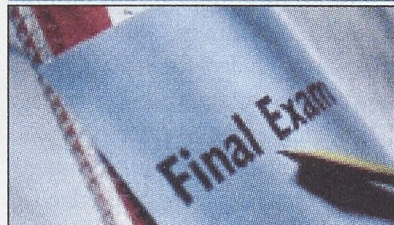
Soon, Maldonado will be one of the professionals. His final exam is June 6 and he plans to take the certification exam shortly thereafter.

"I'm looking forward to the job search," he said.

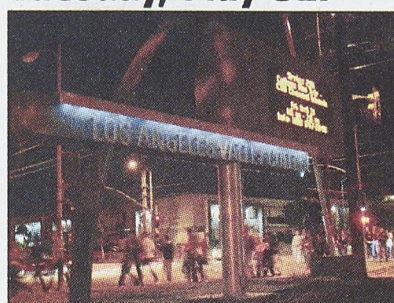
Cowen is confident Maldonado and his fellow students will pass the exam.

"The students who are here are serious and they're going to make great EMTs," said Cowen. "They're going to help people and save lives and go home everyday at the end of their shift knowing they made a difference in someone's life."

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:



Final exams begin
Tuesday, May 31.



TRANSFERRING?

To have your transfer status posted on the LAVC marquee, send your name, ID number and transfer school to news@lavc.edu.

ONLINE EXCLUSIVE:

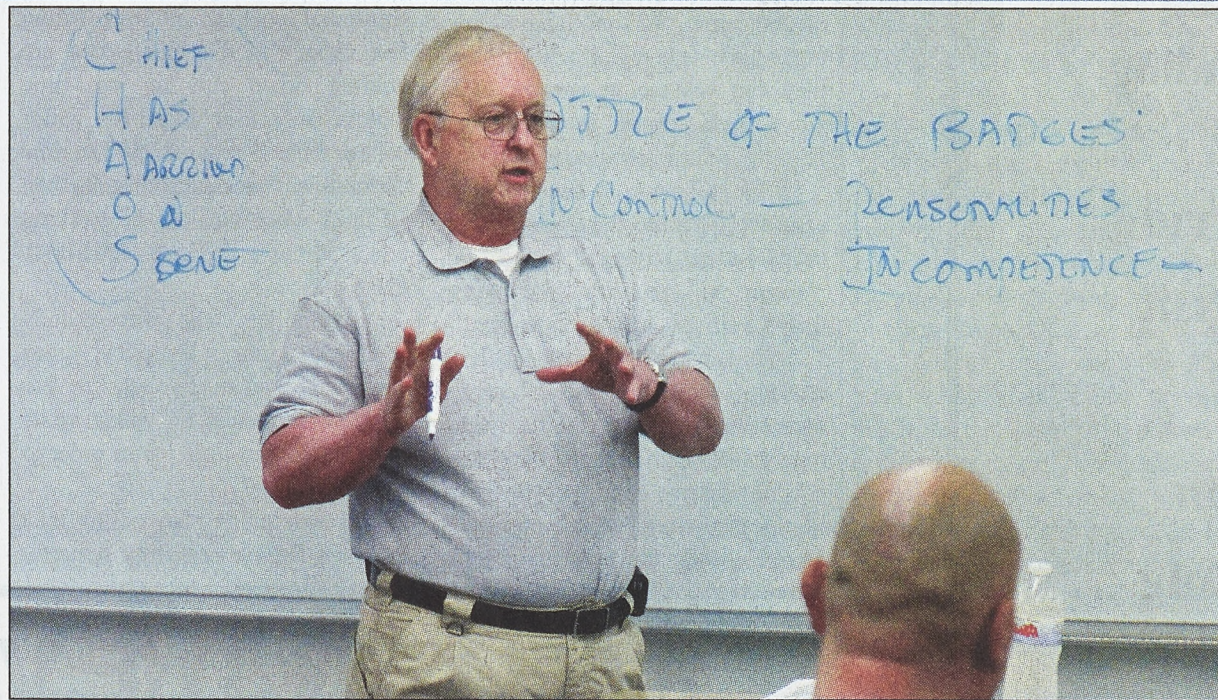


Hands Across America

Photo essay reveals the sights and sounds of the innovative event.

These features and more can be found in full @ www.lavalleystar.com

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DISCUSSION - Instructor Eric Hartman leads a class discussion on homeland security issues. Hartman teaches terrorism & counterterrorism, one of seven specialty courses available as a certificate or administration of justice degree.

UNDERSTANDING TERRORISM

Innovative teaching program helps students gain thorough understanding of terrorism around the world.

STEPHANIE COLMAN
NEWS EDITOR

While many educators were busy re-tooling class curricula to incorporate an impromptu lesson in terrorism immediately following the death of Osama bin Laden, for Valley College professor Eric Hartman, every class session is an opportunity to explore the complex facets of terrorism.

Hartman teaches terrorism

and counterterrorism, a specialty course offered as part of Valley's administration of justice program. It's one of a series of seven courses available to students interested in earning a vocational certificate in homeland security.

"We offer these classes so that people can put it on their resume," said Hartman. "If they go to apply for jobs as first responders or in homeland security, they can show that they really know what's going on in the areas of terrorism and homeland security."

Other courses in the series include history of terrorism, weapons of mass destruction and psychology of terrorism. The classes are popular, filling quickly and experiencing low

attrition.

"I want to provide a basic education of what's going on in the world so that people can understand it," Hartman said. "We don't just talk about Muslim terrorists. We talk about domestic terrorism and international groups. I try to make it as unbiased as possible in talking about terrorism."

Students say classes like Hartman's definitely lead to a greater understanding of the issues and the importance of counterterrorism programs.

"This class can really help younger minds understand what our military is up against," said Valley student Noel (last name withheld).

[See **TERRORISM**, Page 2]

TUITION FEES GO UP AS CLASSES DWINDLE

All California community college fees have increased to \$36 per unit.

CAROLINA LEON
STAFF WRITER

Despite ongoing advocacy efforts to prevent student fee increases and educational budget cuts, California community colleges will implement another fee increase starting in Fall 2011. Students will now be expected to pay \$36 per unit rather than \$26.

The increase is a result of SB70, which Gov. Jerry Brown signed into law in March in an attempt to help balance the California state budget.

A full-time student taking 12 units will now pay an extra \$120 for the fall semester. The \$10 per-unit increase is the second increase in two years. Valley College students attending barely long enough to complete an associate degree have experienced an increase of nearly 85 percent. In 2009 Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger signed a California State Budget that increased unit fees from \$20 to \$26.

"I heard about the unit fee increase before, but they weren't sure how much exactly," said Valley student Mariquita Acosta. "I don't know if I can still make it, especially now, it's a big difference

for me."

"The increase in fees is a decision made by the state of California," said Valley President Sue Carleo. "We do not set the fees at Valley College."

The state chancellor sets an enrollment goal and issues a reimbursement rate. According to the fall class schedule, the true costs associated with a California resident's community college education is \$190 per unit, but students are only asked to pay \$36. The State of California will pay the remaining \$154 per unit for each student.

"The more we can remind our representatives that we are a good investment in the future health of the state, the harder it will be for them to forget us when the decisions are ultimately made," said Carleo.

Students are consumers of education, but recent advocacy efforts display concerns and frustrations. Events such as Valley's Political Action Coalition Die-In, March in March, and Hands Across California were organized in hopes of sending the message of how educational budget cuts have negatively affected students.

Financial aid will still be available to students who qualify, but many students forced to work more to pay for school may have trouble receiving financial aid if

[See **FEES**, Page 2]

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THE VALLEY STAR INFO & STAFF

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TERRORISM

Continued from page 1

"I think every major city needs a strong counterterrorism program. [Terrorists] are as smart as we are, and this class really plants the seed of interest and shows the importance."

While many Americans danced in the streets during the days following President Obama's televised speech to the nation, Hartman says his students had a more subdued reaction.

"For the most part, people were pretty quiet about it," Hartman said. "I emphasized to them that even though this happened, it's not over. There will be die-hard extremists who will continue on in bin Laden's name because of ideological and religious reasons, and we still need to be vigilant."

"My initial reaction was, 'Hell yeah, we got the bastard,'" said Valley student David Hunt. "Then you start looking at reports on the operation ... here's how we did this ... get the needed information and then strike. These classes really help create a broader understanding of terrorism and counterterrorism."

STUDENTS SEEK EMPLOYMENT TO STAY COOL OVER SUMMER

End of semester leaves students actively seeking employment opportunities.

IVAN ZUNIGA
ONLINE MANAGER

As the spring semester comes to an end it's time for students to relax and engage in all the summer festivities often daydreamed of during class. Now that jobs are becoming increasingly more available for students, it's possible to have a little extra cash in your pocket this summer.

"It's frustrating because I would like to be working since I won't be taking any classes for summer session," said Valley College student Diane Quintero. "I applied online and in several stores hoping to hear back from

them soon."

Websites like WorkInRetail.com and JobsOnTheMenu.com offer a simple way to look for summer jobs. Users receive regular emails with employment leads and job tips.

In addition, there are several on-campus options for students looking for temporary, part- or full-time positions. Many campus and online resources exist to help students find openings. One option is the job club, which offers Valley students local job opportunities, as well as help with resume writing and techniques used in job interviews.

"We'll get more than 100 people per job club, and that's not only for summer jobs, but for all kinds of jobs," said Job Training Director Lennie Ciufu. "We have a job club every month here and all students are encouraged to

come."

Internships and apprenticeships are always an option for students who want to focus on or learn more about a specific career field.

The LA Fellows program at Valley offers in-depth training in computer skills, portfolio building and job placement assistance. Fellows are offered work experience in their area of interest through a seven-week training course that includes volunteer work with non-profit organizations.

"We deal with people who are looking for career transitions," said Ciufu. "For summer, we will work with anybody, and we're starting a class in the fall that's going to be a great opportunity for students looking for employment."

Students returning to Valley for the fall semester will have access to the workforce development program with new courses like "30 Ways to Shine as a New Employee" and "Blueprint for Workplace Success." Both are recommended for students looking for career transitions.

FEES

Continued from page 1

they work too many hours.

"When you're raising the price, no one wants to pay more," said Valley student Brooke Scher. "But it's still inexpensive compared to other universities."

According to the California State University website, CSU Northridge tuition and mandatory fees for 2010-2011 total more than \$5,000.

and still transfer in two years by taking classes in intersessions," said Avtandilian. "But as I got close to my second semester, I realized that these budget cuts meant certain required courses wouldn't be available during the intersessions."

For cinema and television arts major Christian Estrada, the decision to take five classes stemmed from a different reason.

"I felt like taking five classes because when I was taking four it felt like I was being lazy. I felt that since I didn't have a job I had a lot of extra time," said Estrada.

The issue amongst incoming transfers also arises when many students are undecided majors. The time it takes to figure out a major is becoming more valuable when lining up major prerequisites and required transfer classes to overlap is necessary.

"It's important to at least get an idea of what your major is so you don't waste time and money taking random classes you might not even need," said Estrada.

FIVE CLASSES IS THE NEW FULL TIME FOR MANY STUDENTS

More students choose 15-unit course loads to speed up transfer time.

RACHEL FERRERIA
STAFF WRITER

With class availability uncertain, many academically-minded students are looking to take more than 12 units in order to fulfill transfer requirements within two years.

Due to budget cuts, a number of major-specific classes are no longer offered as an evening and morning option. Valley College Vice President of Academic Affairs Sandy Mayo urges students to take as many classes they can balance to prepare for a worst case scenario in which state funding is diminished even further.

"We're having to become more efficient because the state budget keeps getting reduced," Mayo said. "Winter will probably look worse than the current summer offerings."

This makes it difficult for those students who are only recently registering for Valley, as their later registration date means they may not necessarily even get the four classes they want because priority is determined by the number of units

completed.

"I've always had an earlier registration date, and made sure to sign up at the exact minute I can," said English major Martha Avtandilian. "I don't think it would have been as easy had I signed up a year later, in light of the recent class shortage."

"I would recommend that any student who can manage five classes do it," said Valley President Sue Carleo. "It's much better to go with what's available now rather than hope that something will be available in the future. It will probably take two to three more years to get close to where we were before."

The difficulty for many community college students taking five classes is that they often are holding down full- or part-time jobs because they chose the junior college route to save money. The time commitment necessary for more than 12 units when one can be working is sometimes a difficult sacrifice to make.

Avtandilian who was recently accepted into Berkeley, has consistently taken five classes her last few semesters at Valley while balancing a part-time job in order to transfer on time.

"I originally planned to take less than five classes every semester

The I-TAP Program ends June 6, 2011

Los Angeles Valley College's I-TAP Pass Program is being discontinued due to loss of funding.

If you want to continue to ride Metro in the fall, please visit

metro.net

for eligibility information and instructions on applying for a standard reduced-fare College/Vocational Pass for \$36 a month.

CAMPUS HAPPENINGS...

RALLY IN THE VALLEY



READY TO RALLY - Valley College student Marcos Perez led more than 200 supporters on a march around campus as part of last Tuesday's Rally in the Valley. "The purpose is to raise awareness about budget cuts and fee hikes in community colleges throughout California," he said. The rally ended with a 20-minute march around campus.

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TWO CENTS FROM SPENCE PRETTY VACANT

Republican contenders for 2012 not only have no bark, they have no bite.

J.P. SPENCE



There is still a good year to go before the first republican primary for the 2012 presidential election takes place and the early candidates have already chosen their weapons of choice: smoke and mirrors. It's just so infuriating to keep listening to a political party that promotes itself as being above the fray and about Main Street rather than Wall Street, yet the only real work being done is bet hedging. Take Newt Gingrich for example. After learning what Twitter was just as he was announcing on Twitter that he was formally running for president, Gingrich goes on "Hannity" and already calls President Obama a cheater. Gingrich said, "[Obama] can't afford to run in a fair election. If he was on an equal playing field, he'd lose." He went on to further state that Obama is only doing so well because of support from the "left-wing media," and the backing of labor unions and billionaires like George Soros. Yeah, let's completely forget that whole Bin Laden thing and the subtle but steady resurgence in lowering the unemployment rate. Critics may cite the recent terrorist offing as the reason for the recent spike in the president's numbers, which very well could be part of the reason. But so could Obama ending the whole birther debate while simultaneously bitch-slapping Donald Trump at the Correspondents' Dinner, effectively ending his presidential run before the train wreck ever started. And yes Obama's only support is from the "left wing media" because Gingrich is talking on the right wing media. The media doesn't care who says what or why or what impact that will have. You put the crazy guy on the left side and the even crazier guy on the right and see who can out crazy the other for a slight ratings boost. A man as savvy as Gingrich (who now uses the Internet!) should know more about this than a devastatingly handsome juco opinion columnist. Right? Gingrich, who announced his presidential run Wednesday, said he is not expecting any help from the press. "If you are a conservative, you have to start with an assumption that you're not going to get an even break from the elite media," he said. The ironic thing is that Gingrich was getting help in the form of having his own personal bully pulpit on "Hannity." The newly minted presidential candidate needs to realize that the judgmental, scrutinizing, non-focused, and sometimes editorially inept pendulum swings both ways. If Gingrich, Michelle Bachmann, Sarah Palin, and Trump want to jab at the president for allegedly false birth documents then there should be no quarter when questions of infidelity, idiocy, inexperience or hairpieces come into play. Deal with it. Two days into his presidential campaign and Gingrich is already a retread. It's not because he's been resting on laurels from over a decade ago, it's because he doesn't have any new ideas. The easiest and sometimes best way to make yourself look better is to make the other guy look worse than you. That's what Gingrich is already trying to do and that's why so many people are apathetic when it comes to politics. The only thing worse than poo-flinging is smoke and mirrors.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The views expressed on this page are solely those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the Valley Star, its instructors, editors, staff or those of Los Angeles Valley College, its administrators, faculty, staff, or students.

IF YOU PAY PEANUTS THEN EXPECT TO GET MONKEYS

There's no reason to complain about tuition increase, it's only \$10.

MINDEE JORGENSEN
STAFF WRITER

Gov. Jerry Brown's recent budget cuts have forced the Los Angeles community colleges to raise their tuition cost for state resident students from \$26 to \$36 dollars per unit in a shocking increase of (ahem) \$10. This much-needed increase is a small price to pay in keeping the quality of education high at our community colleges.

If anything, this action will force students to take education more seriously. This increase will make those who enroll in classes, only to drop them before the semester is half over, think twice about enrolling. It will free up room for those who are serious about their education and help motivate students to keep up their grades, so they won't have to re-take classes due to failing.

Valley students don't have it that bad at \$36 per unit. This is a very low tuition fee compared with other community colleges; some charge their state resident students five times or more that amount. The people who are complaining are only doing so because they didn't realize how fortunate they were at having their



ILLUSTRATION BY JENNIFER MORGAN | VALLEY STAR

education so accessible until a simple road block of \$10 stood in their way. If that Hamilton is such an impediment to these students who cry she-nanigans, then maybe their education isn't worth that much to them.

For a full-time, 12-unit student, the increase amounts to 120 more dollars a semester. This may seem like a large amount to a low-income student; however, there are still programs in place such as the Pell Grant or fee waivers that help these students pay for tuition, maybe some of that free money should actually go to their edu-

cation. As for others, \$120 is not that large of an increase, and with some budgeting and saving, it should be achievable for the majority of students.

True, this increase will draw the line for some students, keeping them from enrolling. It is a sacrifice for quality education for those that can afford the fees. With fewer classes being offered, overcrowding is an issue Valley is facing, and lower enrollment would keep class sizes in check, giving students a better learning environment and lessening the load put on the teachers.

The saying goes, "You get what you pay for," and in this case it's a quality education and college degree. Think of it less as a tuition increase, and more of an investment in the future.

BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU TWEET FOR...

Celebrities and athletes should consider what they update.

COURTNEY BASSLER
STAFF WRITER

The micro-blogging site, Twitter, started as a way for people to say what's on their mind. Today, the site is now used for fans to know what their favorite celebrity is doing every waking moment. With that, there are consequences.

The saying, "Think before one speaks," can be applied

here. However, it's more like, think before one tweets.

For celebrities and athletes, what one tweets not only changes the way someone thinks of them, but also themselves as a brand.

For an example, many tweeting problems have been resulted in suspensions, fines and discussions about banning team members on Twitter and also league-wide bans of the 140-character site.

For Child Development major, Alfredo Zamora his opinion of his favorite athlete changed when his soccer player for Manchester United, Wayne Rooney, tweeted that he wanted to leave the team.

"It not only affected me, but the whole entire world," said Zamora. "I was mad that he questioned his allegiance. He's slowly gaining my trust back."

Just because celebrities need to be cautious of their tweets doesn't mean "normal" people shouldn't be careful as well.

People should think of themselves as brands too. If one tweets that they can't remember last night because they drank too much, there could be consequences. For some, it could cost the job they applied for because the employer decided to check that person's tweets.

Colleges can even look at one's Facebook and Twitter.

Allison Otis, an interviewer for Harvard mentioned in a LA Times article about looking online at students' social media profiles.

"I think it's always better to be safe than sorry," said Allison Otis. "When you apply to college you spend such a long time crafting an image through your applications and essays that to be careless about your online data is just silly."

Your mother was looking out, "Think before you speak," Oh wait, think before you update your social media sites.

ACTIONS SPEAK LOUDER THAN WORDS

Non-profit organization Kiva gives individuals the ability to create self-sustaining businesses in Third World countries.

RACHAEL FERREIRA
STAFF WRITER

In America, \$25 can buy a nice sushi dinner or half a tank of gas if you're lucky, but a loan of \$25 through the non-profit Kiva to someone like Digna Emerita in El Salvador can help provide the capital necessary to stimulate her sweet bread making business. While donations are a skeptical business for many Americans, the beauty in Kiva is that it functions as a loan service allowing even those on a tight budget to give Digna's three children a better future.

This business model should serve as an example to other non-profits, because it doesn't

just alleviate a basic problem like hunger, but provides long-lasting stability to communities by generating a source of income. And with a repayment rate of 98.75 percent, that sushi dinner money will eventually be coming back into your pocketbook.

Founded in 2005, the non-profit Kiva works to alleviate global poverty by providing loans to communities without access to traditional banking systems. The key word here is "loan," as you are not technically donating anything since your loan will eventually be repaid once the business or individual has started generating income. By working with field partners or certified microfinance institutions that make loans to impoverished communities, Kiva provides a direct connection between Internet lenders and the people who need the loan at 0 percent interest.

If more non-profits were focused on addressing the

economy issue as a whole instead of one particular symptom, future generations in countries like El Salvador would have an income foundation to decrease reliance on foreign aid.

The hardest part of starting any self-sustaining project is getting the necessary money to invest into it, whether that's supplies or advertising. For many in rural areas, this is simply not possible as they do not often have established credit or even access to banks for that matter. In order to be eligible for a loan, the individual or business applying for the loan must first be investigated by the field partner in the area who then will take pictures and upload the entrepreneur's information onto Kiva.

From there lenders can browse their stories on Kiva.org and pick and choose which businesses they would like to lend to, whether that's seed money for agriculture or construction materials for

housing projects. Instead of filling half your gas tank, you can help fuel an entire community.

Sam Hanks, a former graphics art director for the Red Cross in Washington D.C. has a problem with taking the word of the organizations he donates to after seeing all the mismanagement that went on with the Red Cross in the early '90s.

"The money I saw wasted at the Red Cross really bothered me. The money was not necessarily spent on what you were donating to. It was badly managed at the top back then," said Hanks.

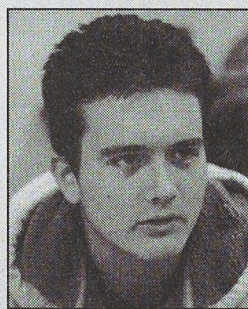
For those who are uneasy like Sam, Kiva serves not as a simple donation service, but as an empowerment opportunity that allows you to track the progress of the small businesses you've lent to. So far, Kiva has generated \$213 million in loans from 583,382 lenders. Now it's only a matter of opening your hearts and bank accounts... temporarily, of course.

GOT A LETTER TO THE EDITOR?

Letters to the editor can be sent to: editor@lavalleystar.com or submitted online at www.lavalleystar.com. Letters must be limited to 300 words and may be edited for content. Full name and contact information must be supplied in order for letters to be printed. Send by Thursday for the following week's issue.

VALLEY VIEW

HOW EASY WILL IT BE FOR OBAMA TO WIN A SECOND ELECTION AS PRESIDENT?



"It's probably likely, seeing as how he's really good at manipulating and getting people to believe things that he cannot promise."

-TIM SCOTT, UNDECIDED



"I don't think it's in the bag. I think he hasn't done a lot for the economy yet and unfortunately voters have a short memory."

-CORY MELIS, MATH



"Pretty easy, I think. The republican contenders aren't that strong I don't think. Because that guy just dropped and Mitt Romney I think is the one in the lead right now"

-LUIS JIMENZ, BUSINESS



"I think it all comes down to anything that happens, especially the economy. Originally I thought he wasn't, but with the Osama thing, I think he might have a chance."

-ALEXANDER HULETT, HISTORY



"I don't know. At first everyone loved him and everything and now I'm hearing a lot of criticism about him. I don't know."

-EMELIE TRAUB, UNDECIDED

THE MOVIES

OPENING THIS WEEKEND



PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN

JOHNNY DEPP
PENELOPE CRUZ
IAN MCSHANE

TOP 5 BOX OFFICE:

- THOR: \$34.5M+
- BRIDESMAIDS: \$24.4M+
- FAST FIVE: \$19.5M+
- PRIEST: \$14.5M+
- RIO: \$8M+

MEDIA RELEASES

DVD



THE MECHANIC

ALSO AVAILABLE:

- THE RITE
- THE OTHER WOMAN
- THE ROOMMATE
- VANISHING ON 7TH STREET

SONGSTOP DOWNLOADS



ADELE

ROLLING IN DEEP

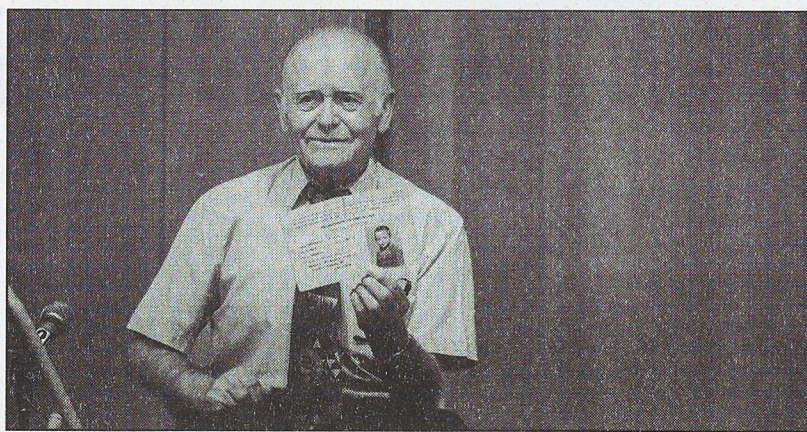
ALSO:

- LADY GAGA- HAIR
- PITBULL - GIVE ME EVERYTHING
- BRUNO - THE LAZY SONG
- ENRIQUE IGLESIAS - DIRTY DANCER

CONCERTS & THEATRE



- KYLIE MINOGUE: MAY 20 HOLLYWOOD BOWL
- RAMMSTEIN: MAY 20 THE FORUM
- LITA FORD: MAY 21 THE GALAXY THEATRE
- SHE WANTS REVENGE: MAY 22 ROXY
- STEEL PANTHER: MONDAYS HOUSE OF BLUES SUNSET STRIP
- SYSTEM OF A DOWN: MAY 24 THE FORUM
- SCOTT WEILAND: MAY 24 VIPER ROOM
- NOAH AND THE WHALE: MAY 25 EL REY THEATRE



RICARDO VARELA | VALLEY STAR

LIVE TO TELL - Holocaust survivor Dave Lux shows his entry visa into England.

HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR SPEAKS WITH STUDENTS

WWII refugee tells his story for Holocaust Remembrance Month

NATHAN MCMAHON
STAFF WRITER

At 77 years old, David Lux's white, bushy eyebrows stand out prominently over his eyes. He sits with a firm comfort that age affords. His soft-spoken voice mixes many accents and timbres that could only be acquired with a well-traveled life.

Lux, with his older brother, survived the Holocaust as Jewish refugees. His parents, along with an estimated 6.5 million European Jews, did not. When speaking about the fate of his parents, it's matter-of-factly as if the sky is blue.

"Now at the age of 12 and 13, that's how old we were ... we had to come to the painful conclusion; we had to grow up and come to this painful conclusion, that we would never see them again, and get on with our lives."

Lux was the guest speaker for last week's Holocaust Remembrance event at Valley College, sponsored by Hillel at Valley, German Club, and the Jewish Studies Department.

After eventually finding shelter, Lux's parents were approached by a woman who offered the children a chance to escape by taking them into

a program called Kindertransport. As well as Lux perceives, his parents were the only ones in their neighborhood to accept the offer.

"I can only imagine the pain that my parents must have felt the moment we were taken away," said Lux.

Kindertransport saved his life, but never saw his parents again. "After [my brother and I] left, [my parents] eventually were relocated to a Jewish ghetto in Slovakia where they stayed 'til the early 1940s and ... that's when they were put on a train to Auschwitz and that was it," stated a somber Lux.

He and his brother arrived in England and lived in a boys' home with other child refugees. This was home for the next 10 years. Lux and his brother had no idea that they were part of only 669 children saved by a British businessman named Nicholas Winton. Winton had secretly put up the money for these children to be transported into England to be taken care of.

Approximately 10,000 children, from a multitude of Eastern European countries were saved by similar programs in the months before Germany's invasion of Poland, sparking World War II. With nearly every seat in Monarch Hall filled, Lux told his life story. As this horrible event changed his path in life, Lux survived because of the love of his parents and the kindness of strangers.

AS HIP AS IT WANTS TO BE

Vintage photography is in and there's no better way to do it than with the Hipstamatic app. for the iPhone.

NATHAN MCMAHON
STAFF WRITER

Photoshop has brought a new wave of vintage photography enthusiasts into the mainstream. It's allowed the everyday laymen to produce some stellar images with even the simplest point and shoot camera. The iPhone app, Hipstamatic, is a funky little program that puts a heavy touch of vintage, cheap plastic camera photography onto your mobile phone.

The Hipstamatic app., developed by Synthetic Infatuation LLC, brings it all around again by taking some elements of Photoshop that let you tweak things like color, saturation, vignetting, and texturing, layering these filters automatically on pictures taken with an iPhone.

When first opening the app., the front of a classic looking camera with the dimpled textured rubber casing is seen. A nice little touch is the message on the lens, "Wiping Off Lens, Please Wait," as it loads.

Once loaded, a set of options is laid out on the bottom of the touch screen. There are five icons for film types, flashes, camera casing, a shopping cart for in-app. purchases, and an arrow that flips the camera over.

There's also a lever on the lens that let's you adjust the quality of the picture from standard, medium, and high. A nifty looking viewfinder and plastic-looking flash complete the look but are purely aesthetic.

When the camera is flipped over, the viewfinder is displayed

in the center of the screen while the shutter button and film window flank both sides of it. Right below the viewfinder is the flash button, which makes an instantly satisfying high-pitched whine to let you know it's ready, when pressed.

The pictures are what this app. is all about, as it makes any mundane picture a piece worthy for your shoebox full of Polaroids or Instamatic prints. The end product is dictated by the flashes and films you use. Each has their own results and can be mixed and matched for different effects. There are nine types of film and seven types of flashes in total. Once your pictures are taken you can view them in the app. and even have the opportunity to order some analog prints, which is a nice touch for the in-hand crowd.

There are some downsides to the app though. Most notably is the lack of information when first using the app. The descriptions and examples of the different components and their effects are lacking and in some cases not even available. This can make early navigating a trial and error affair that may turn some users off.

Also of note is lack of features if you just buy the base pack at the \$1.99 price point. To get access to everything you'd have to spend well over \$10, which isn't too bad when compared to an all out purchase of Photoshop.

Overall this app. is a must-buy for any photo enthusiast. In fact, its use in a recent award-winning photo by a professional photographer cements it as a viable alternative to most point-and-shoots.



BRIANA FARINA | VALLEY STAR

TIME OUT OF MIND - Photographer Samson Uba takes aim. Synthetics Corp. Hipstamatic app for the iPhone transforms mundane camera images into instant vintage-looking images.

PURPLE PEOPLE PARTY

Iconic artist, Prince floods the Forum stage with Purple Rain.

BRAD TAYLOR
STAFF WRITER

The artist still known as Prince continued his purple reign at the Forum on Thursday during his "Welcome 2 America" tour with special guests and platform shoes that would make even Gaga jealous.

The mysterious pop powerhouse, Prince, has held court in Inglewood's Forum for several weeks for what he calls his "21 night stand" show. Several famous folks have come to support his majesty, from Gwen Stefani to Sheila E. it has become standard to see someone join Prince onstage. Thursdays' show featured Chaka Khan as his opening act with even more special guest Whitney Houston.

Prince invited the audience to what he called his "purple party." His stage was designed to look like his now famous symbol icon with a simple band and three female vocalists. The man himself was decked out in a purple pirate shirt with some very high heels he used to prance around the stage with a reckless abandon usually left to much younger artists.

The fact that Prince looks nearly unchanged at 52 is not lost on him. He told the audience that he still looks the same and it was true. The pint-sized dynamo also urged the audience to get their cell phones out and tell somebody about "real music, by real musicians."

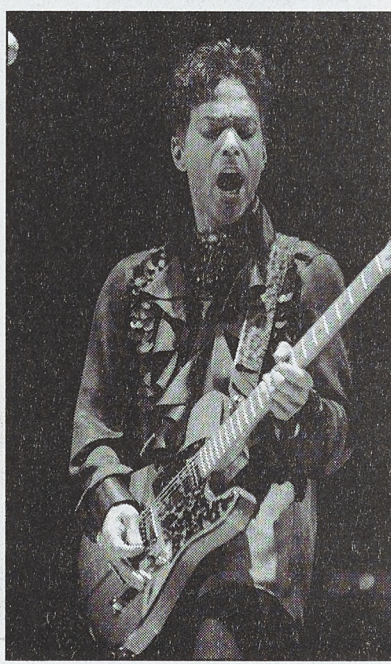
The power of music has always been one of Prince's messages in his career and now it seems to be his mantra. Throughout the set of new songs and greatest hits the purple pioneer ravaged several guitars with long amazing riffs and solos that

drove the audience into a frenzy. With a wry smile he ripped into classics like "Little Red Corvette" and "Let's Go Crazy" like he was playing them for the first time.

Whitney Houston returned to the stage to join Prince on his song "Musicology." The diva sounded great and the audience lost it when she hit some high notes. But the true fun was when comedian Cedric the Entertainer climbed onstage and even Prince busted up laughing at his spot on '80s Prince imitation.

Half-way through his set, Prince switched into a white outfit with tall furry boots, which to most would seem pretty nuts, but for him it was simply business as usual. Once the show seemed finished the artist came out for several encores that ended in a literal purple rain.

Current pop stars take note, this is how you entertain a crowd with real music and charisma. Prince has also priced his tickets at a mere \$25 for about 85 percent of the seats so his fans can afford to see him. Visit www.ticketmaster.com for weekly updates and prepare for a funky night of purple music passion.



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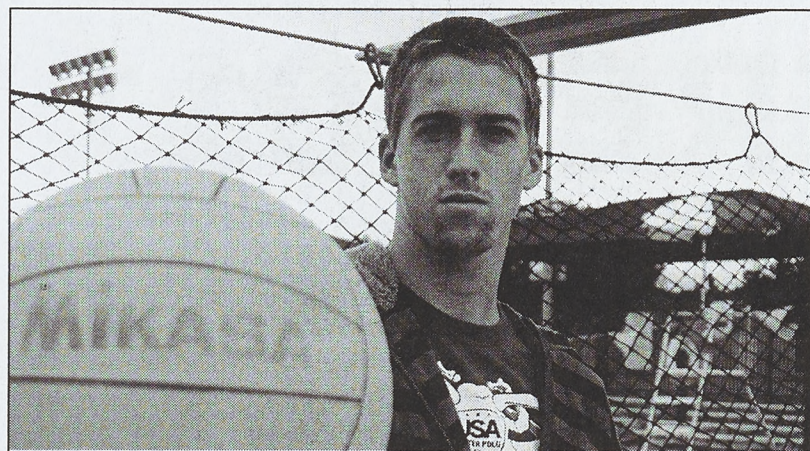
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SUCCESS - Water polo and swim team member Robert Cordobes by the pool where he spends the majority of his time preparing for competitions.

IT'S IN HIS BLOOD

Valley College champion swimmer Robert Cordobes speaks about his past, present, and future.

JOSHUA LAWRENCE
STAFF WRITER

Standing outside bouncing a water polo ball in the light drizzle of rain, Valley College water polo and swim team member, Robert "Corby" Cordobes felt right at home on the pool deck Tuesday afternoon.

"I started swimming when I was like four," said Cordobes. "I started really young swimming for the YMCA for years till middle school. Then I took a break and started again in high school."

After three years of hard work on the El Segundo swimming and water polo teams, Cordobes' effort paid dividends. Both the Eagle's water polo and swim teams placed first in the California Interscholastic Federation championships during his senior year.

When asked about his first year at Valley Cordobes said, "I loved it; the people, the coaches, just the area in general. This

school is awesome." Cordobes' first swim season quickly proved his dominance in the Western State Conference. He qualified for state championships in the 50-yard freestyle as well as the 100 freestyle. He is the current conference champion in the 50 freestyle with a time of 21.27 seconds. Cordobes also holds school records in the 200 and 400 medley relay teams.

"Corby had a surprisingly good swim season," said swimming, diving and water polo coach Jim McMillan. "I look for him to get bigger, faster, and stronger."

Cordobes would like to make the Olympics in 2016 if he can stay healthy and motivated. He has never been timed in an Olympic size pool (50 yards as opposed to 25 yards) but hopes his times do not fluctuate too much due to the size difference.

Currently Cordobes is unemployed but looking for a job, not surprisingly, at an aquatics center. He is also undecided on his major, but continues taking classes to complete his general education. Cordobes hopes to transfer to the University of Arizona and continue his swimming endeavors.

TRACK TEAM PUNCHES TICKET TO STATE FINALS

The Valley College track and field team looks to build on season success in the state finals.

IVAN ZUNIGA
ONLINE MANAGER

It's that time again for the Monarchs to prepare for what might be the biggest event of the season. Returning from the Southern California Finals the men and women's track and field team qualified in several events and broke a variety of personal records.

Before the Southern California Finals the track and field team competed in the Southern California prelims held at Mt. SAC on May 6.

Freshman Jorge Mendez earned sixth place in the 10,000m run with a final time of 32:25.63. He also qualified to compete in the state finals for the 10,000m. Kyle Ballew

earned first place in the men's pole vault with a height of 5.21m, scoring 10 points for Valley College.

Alva Castillo, Jasmine Woods, Arielle, Reeves, Adeshola Stewart, Adriana Blanco and Chiza Eze all competed managed to keep the Monarchs in the event with. Their performances qualified them to compete in fifteen events for the Southern California finals.

"We had some mixed results," said women's coach Yannick Allain. "But our women's relay did exceptionally well. Our 4x100m relay beat the school record that was held since 1990 [and] they shattered that one, and qualified in the Southern Cal ... so their going to state."

In the Southern California finals last Friday at Mt. SAC, the men's team placed twenty-third with a total of 13 points and the women's team earned eight place with 33 points out of 28 other colleges.

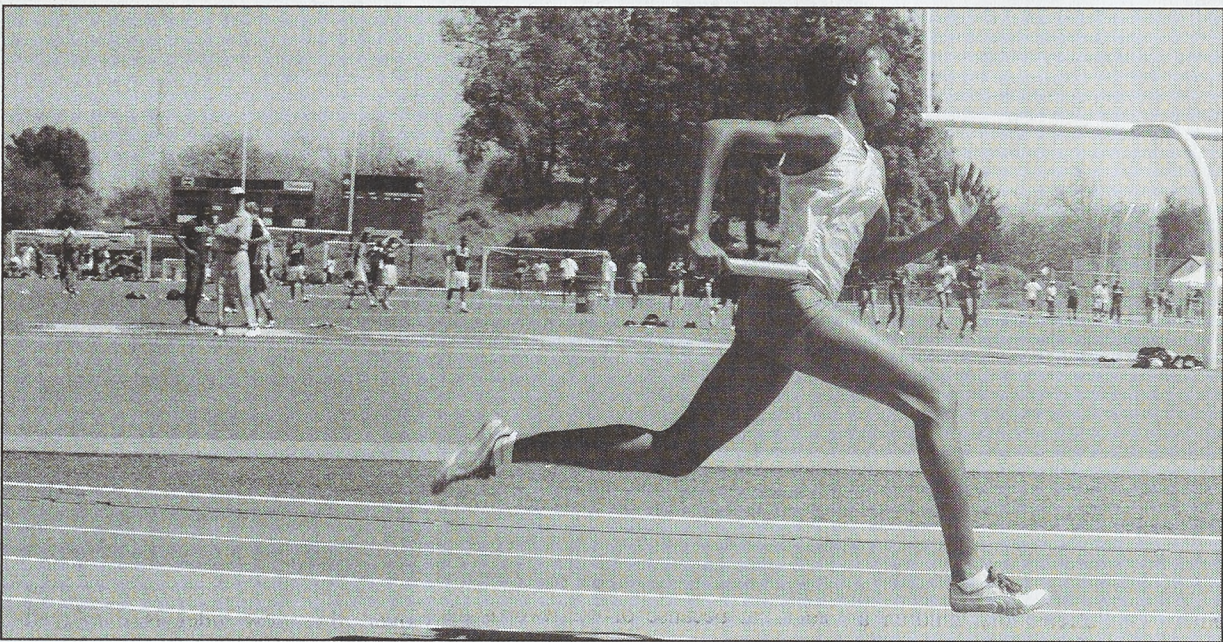
"[The] Southern California Finals were great [and] it went

pretty well," men's coach Francois Wolman said. "Kyle Ballew won the pole and vault new school record and Jorge ran a personal record in the 5000m. So if we can place in the top five at State that would be nice."

During the Southern California finals, Alva Castillo earned the title of long jump champion with 5.49m and 400m champion with a time of 55.74. Kyle Ballew broke his personal record in the pole vault at 17' 01". The 4x100m relay school record that has been around for 21 years was broken by Chiza Eze, Alva Castillo, Adriana Blanco and Jasmine Woods with a time of 46.49 seconds.

"There's always room for improvement, I expect to finish the season with multiple personal records and hopefully get at least two all American performances at this state meet," said Allain.

The State Finals will be on Friday, May 20 at American River College.



RECORDS - After breaking a majority of school and personal records the track and field team will held to state finals.

ANALYZE THIS THE MAVERICKS HAVE WHAT IT TAKES

Despite the fact that two of the four teams remaining in the NBA playoffs being "young teams," experience will ultimately be the deciding factor.

LUCAS THOMPSON



When the Los Angeles Lakers and San Antonio Spurs were eliminated from this season's NBA playoffs, and the Oklahoma City Thunder and Chicago Bulls advanced to the Western and Eastern Conference Finals, the predictions started to come out that a "young and quicker team" would prevail as NBA champions ... not so fast.

Granted, this will be just the second time in 14 years that neither the veteran Lakers or Spurs have made an appearance in the Western Conference Finals, but this season was different. The Dallas Mavericks made it look like they were playing the Los Angeles Clippers in round two of the NBA playoffs. The Lakers were slow, unmotivated and completely unorganized. Pau Gasol was having "relationship issues," Derek Fisher and the entire team couldn't guard the three-point line to save their lives, and Andrew Bynum forgot what the term "boxing out" meant. This is not an example of experience collapsing under pressure, this is an example of a team that bought into its ego and collapsed internally under the reign of one of the greatest coaches in North American history.

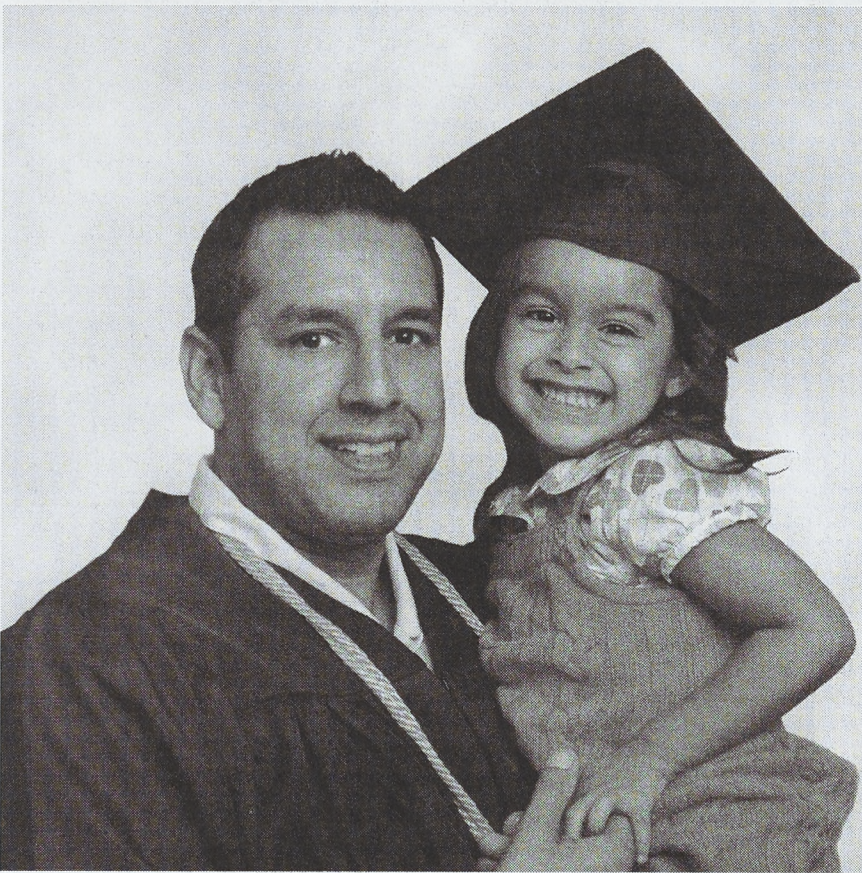
The Dallas Mavericks have wisdom, talent and an understanding of the game of basketball heading into the conference finals. The leadership and experience that has defined the Lakers' and Spurs' success for so many years, in so many games ... the Thunder and Bulls on the other hand, do not. Fast-paced, all out basketball does not win championships and has been proven over and over as a system and model that simply does not work.

It took Michael Jordan, arguably the best player in NBA history, seven years to win his first NBA title and not by coincidence. It wasn't until Jordan slowed down, ran the offense set in place and involved his team that his success as a player began to pay off.

Oh I apologize, I haven't mentioned the Miami Heat. After the meltdown displayed in the Heat's 103-82 loss to the Chicago Bulls in round one of the Eastern Conference Finals, the Heat's destiny is set. Regardless of the star-studded cast bouncing back and defeating the Bulls, which is a possibility, there are deep issues that will eventually be the team's demise. When the Heat is faced with a little "heat," the team unravels and LeBron James and Dwyane Wade forget they have an offense to run. They attempt to take the game over by themselves, force shots and lose sight that basketball is won by organization and game plan.

The Mavericks fit the mold of champions. They go all out while still maintaining composure. The Thunder, Heat and Bulls may be able to out-athlete Dirk Nowitzki, Jason Kidd and the Mavericks, but they will not outsmart them. Wisdom has always been the key to success in professional sports, and the Mavericks will prove this right ... again.

E-mail Lucas Thompson at editor@lavalleystar.com



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MOST A CLASS

Part time Valley student-Courtney Kassakhian gets back into dance.

COURTNEY BASSLER
STAFF WRITER

By day, Courtney Kassakhian is Vice Principal of Instruction at Notre Dame High School in Sherman Oaks where she works with students and teachers. But at night, the role reverses where Kassakhian is a part-time student at Valley College in the dance program.

Kassakhian started dancing when she was 3 years old and took a break from dancing while she was in college. She continued her love of dancing when she became a cheer and dance coach at Notre Dame High School for four years, working alongside Notre Dame and Valley cheer coach, Rachel Paul. After coaching cheer, Kassakhian decided to focus on other parts of her life. She obtained her master's degree in Catholic School Administration from Loyola Marymount University.

"I kind of was focused on my master's degree and marriage ... I didn't (dance) on a regular basis; I got every once and while to a class," said Kassakhian.

Kassakhian could have had the option to take dance classes at a studio, but she chose Valley because it's so inexpensive.

"The recession is hard," Kassakhian said. "Dance is a very expensive hobby, so to be able to come here and learn and meet new people who share that same interest in you and participate in something like this is really fun."

Kassakhian would support her friend and colleague by going to Paul's dance concerts at Valley. After finishing her master's and getting married to her husband Ardashes "Ardy" Kassakhian, Glendale city clerk, she decided to dance again.

"(Dance Instructor and Associate Professor Geordie Wright) always gets out after the dance concerts and says, 'It's a great deal for the dance classes at Valley,' and since I was finished with my master's program ... I thought, you know what I'm going to do it," explained Kassakhian. "I'm 32. I don't have any kids yet, I should take this opportunity before my life changes to maybe do this again, try my hand at it again. So, I auditioned and I'm in two pieces for this showcase."

Since earning her master's, Kassakhian has also taken a class in the fall and is currently enrolled in ballet with Dance Instructor and Wright and the dance production class. Kassakhian is taking on the challenge of dancing again after now having a full-time job and being married, and was in two pieces in the spring showcase.

"It feels great in some ways, and in some other ways it's frustrating because some of the things that your body used to be able to do, it can't do," Kassakhian said. "It's like the last time I was doing this I was 18 years old; I weighed less, I had more energy. It's so fun, but you also have to kind of forgive yourself a little when you can't do the things that you used to be able to do, because you just can't when you haven't done it in years."

Even though the tuition fee has been raised from \$26 to \$36 per unit, Kassakhian still thinks that students get more out of dance classes at Valley than anywhere else.

"That is so much less expensive than a regular dance class," Kassakhian said. "If you go to a dance studio, you're going to pay \$15 per class. I think actually I'm learning more because if you go to a dance studio they're not actually there to help you improve personally ... but here the teachers are looking for progress ... they get to know you, and know the things that make you the dancer that you are and help you to become a better dancer for yourself."

RENAISSANCE FAIRE 2011

STORY BY LUCAS THOMPSON
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

This weekend marks the final weekend of the 2011 Renaissance Pleasure Faire. The event is a seven-weekend annual fair which turns the Santa Fe Dam Recreation Area in Irwindale, Calif., into a re-creation of a 16th century English sea port town fair and marketplace.

Approximately 1500 performers dress up in 16th century attire to bring Shakespeare's England to life. The Renaissance Pleasure Faire and Artisan Market began on April 9,

and comes to its completion on May 22. The event, which covers roughly 20 acres of land, is in its 49th year.

Along with a variety of food, drinks, games and entertainment there are 150 artisans that populate the marketplace area of the event, selling art and hand-made crafts. The event encompasses a wide variety of activities, shopping and entertainment over the seven - week period.

Admission to the fair is \$25 for adults, \$15 for children ages 5-12, and free for children under 5 years old. For more information please visit Renfair.com or call 877-772-5425.



ACTING THE PART - Performers acting as a puritan (left) and a musician (right) interact with one of the fair's attendees.



FOR SALE - One of the 150 merchants at the Renaissance Pleasure Fair, this particular merchant is selling silver mugs and hand-made chalices or glasses. Other merchants sell other hand made crafts and art throughout the event.



YOUR HIGHNESS - During the fair the "queen" makes her presence to onlookers passing by every two hours.



PHOTO OP - A group of visitors pose for the camera last weekend during the fair. Most of the people in attendance at the event dress in 16th century attire.



NOBLE - A noblewoman sings about beer and wine to a large crowd.